Engraving by Venturini (1685): the Fountain of Venus in the vicinity of the Organ Fountain.

together with the virginal Lucretia [16], the queen of the Amazons Hippolyte, and Minerva, is a celebration of chastity. But there is also a third symbolism, having to do with geography, not unlike that already encountered in the Audience Hall of the palace.

This starts out at the Fountain of Tivoli (Oval) where the three Tiburtine rivers have their origin. We continue along the Path of the Hundred Fountains (the Tiburtine territories) until the three rivers flow into the Fountain of Rome to form the Tiber which in turn was originally supposed to empty into the Fountain of Neptune (representing the sea).

Between 1586 and 1620, since Ippolito's will, modified by his first successor Luigi in exclusive favor of the d'Este family, was still awaiting judgment, the d'Estes, fearing a sentence against them, decided to remove all the statues that could be carried off. In 1621 Alessandro d'Este, once the final changes to the will had been obtained, had all the statues previously removed put back in place.

[16] According to legend, Lucretia was a Roman matron, the wife of L. Tarquinius Collatinus. The son of Tarquinius the Proud, Sextus Tarquinius, attracted to her great beauty, tried to court her but, rebuffed, he took her by force. Lucretia, overcome with sorrow and shame, committed suicide. Thereupon, the Roman people who were tired of similar abuse revolted against the tyrant Tarquinius, then busily engaged in besieging Areda, and closed the city gates on him so that he would never again be able to enter the city (510 B.C.)